

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7800 • Fax: 517-373-9310
E-mail: senrbasham@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD08



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Contact: Andrea Cascarilla

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BASHAM ANNOUNCES MILLIONS IN GRANTS TO ASSIST LOCAL EFFORTS

LANSING- State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor) announced today millions of dollars in state grant awards intended to assist low-income families and help southeastern Michigan communities combat the Emerald Ash Borer problem.

To help low-income customers with their utility bills, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has awarded \$41 million in grants to seven organizations. The grants come from the Low-Income and Energy Assistance Fund. The Downriver Community Conference is among the communities in southeast Michigan being awarded. The organization is receiving a \$275,000 grant to help low-income households, in the Monroe and southern Wayne County areas, pay their energy bills so they can stay warm this winter.

“There is no greater gesture than to offer assistance to the citizens of Michigan at a time when they need help the most. Heating costs alone are expected to be more than 40% higher than last year,” said Sen. Basham. “People in households with fixed incomes or simply hardworking men and women, who with all their efforts, are barely making ends meet, will need help trying to pay the high heating costs projected for the cold months ahead.”

Also announced today are awards totaling \$521,332 to several local communities to help combat the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat. Under this federally funded grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 39 projects were approved out of 51 applications received. Among the recipients of the awards were the cities of Romulus, Southgate, and Wyandotte. The grants will assist these communities with tree planting projects.

“Just since 2002, the Emerald Ash Borer has killed more than 15 million ash trees in our region,” said Sen. Basham. “These grants will allow our local communities to recover from the onslaught of the ash borer attack.”

The DNR has also awarded nearly \$110,000 to assist Michigan communities, schools and non-profit organizations with urban forestry-related activities, under the Community Forestry Grant

program. Of the 75 applications received, 32 projects were approved. Riverview Community Schools and the Wayne Public Library were among those to receive funding.

“The grants will assist in revitalizing our parks and green spaces,” said Sen. Basham. “They will also help maintain the beauty of our local communities.”

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